

Corps in the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group.

Congress voted in 2006 to award the Tuskegee Airmen with the Congressional Gold Medal, which is the most prestigious award the Federal Government can award to servicemembers.

President George W. Bush presented the surviving airmen with the medal at a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol rotunda in March of 2007. Since then, Congress has begun posthumously awarding medals to the families of deceased airmen once they are found.

Flight Officer Perkins died in 1978. After years of effort, his surviving family members obtained the bronze replica of his medal in 2017.

Flight Officer Perkins' service to our Nation has helped break down countless barriers for those who have followed in his footsteps, and we should all be inspired by his service.

In a time when our world was threatened by fascism, Flight Officer Perkins stood among the many to ward off its force.

In a time when our world was quick to define the quality or character of a person based on their skin, Flight Officer Perkins' service demonstrated that character is about living true to your values, working toward the common good.

At a time when we were fighting in the air, Flight Officer Perkins' service illustrated the struggle at home and the need to end segregationist policies.

Following his service in the military, Flight Officer Perkins was unable to become a commercial airline pilot due to the color of his skin, so he continued his passion for flying by getting in a cockpit any chance he could get and by working as an aircraft mechanic.

During his 20-year career after the military, he worked his way up from apprentice mechanic to crew chief and then to crew supervisor.

Flight Officer Perkins' passion and skill for flying may have inspired an entire Nation, but close to home, he also inspired his family. All five of his children went to college and completed degrees.

His daughter went on to be one of the first Black flight attendants for a major airline. His great-grandson is now an Air Force pilot and flies an F-15 Strike Eagle. Before retiring, his son worked as an electrical engineer for NASA.

Today, Madam Speaker, we honor and celebrate Flight Officer Roscoe Perkins, whose service to his country and to his community is greatly appreciated and will long be remembered.

#### FINDING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, as we are becoming painfully aware as Americans, energy independence is

vital to our national security and our everyday lives.

America needs to embrace a true energy policy that supports every type, from natural gas, oil drilling, nuclear, hydroelectric, and the other renewables. We cannot simply declare that some methods of power generation are off limits like the Biden administration and others have been trying to do to natural gas and oil.

Energy production of all kinds is important for rural economies which provide jobs, income at the farm level and at the wildcatter level, tax revenue, et cetera.

Take California, for example. We are the leading State in biomass production, right, our crowded forests, untended for so many years due to policies of the Forest Service getting sued to not do anything before or after a fire.

So in my northeast part of the State, we have millions of tons of waste biomass just sitting on our forest floors, dry, decomposing, turning into CO<sub>2</sub>, waiting to be part of the next catastrophic forest fire which we see happening in overabundance.

The Dixie fire started in my district last year—one million acres—when a tree fell into a power line.

Using biomass is a win-win-win for everybody. It brings local jobs, putting our workers in these rural towns that are suffering economically for years due to the shutdown of this timber industry, basically, putting those folks back to work, tending to work that needs to be done to have forests thinner, cleaner, healthier, and less fire-prone.

But as we continue toward green energy and strict carbon and environmental regulations which only recently began, we are seeing that other forms of energy are not being available, too.

Nuclear. Nuclear energy is a serious alternative energy source and really shouldn't be alternative because it is CO<sub>2</sub>-free. It has been around for a long time, but for some, it isn't politically correct.

California has one remaining nuclear reactor, the one at Diablo Canyon, not too far from San Luis Obispo, where my tie comes from. Diablo Canyon takes up only 900 acres of land and provides nearly 10 percent of California's energy portfolio, almost 10 percent in one power plant, and they want to take it offline because it is not politically correct.

Of course, in California, it is responsible for 23 percent of our carbon-free generation, if you want to play the carbon game.

In a State that faces rolling blackouts to our grid every summer, every time the wind blows because we don't want tree branches falling into power lines, we can't fare without that 10 percent of energy provided by nuclear power, which doesn't have that threat.

Nuclear power plants are cheaper to run than most, even accounting for managing and disposing of radioactive

material, which there are ways to deal with the radioactive leftovers, too, if we can just get to them.

Nuclear power is consistent, 24/7. Unlike solar and wind, it is available all the time. It is not affected by the clouds or lack of wind. Solar and wind power do have their place in our portfolio, but we know we can't completely rely upon them.

We can't build enough batteries to store enough power without having mines in Africa taking advantage of kids' labor to put them in place.

When a wildfire inevitably rages like it has year after year, sending thick, black smoke into the air, our solar panels are obscured by ash and screened from direct sunlight. The solar and wind systems just don't put out what they need to in order to have a modern grid.

Our State has already inexplicably banned the sale of gas-powered backup generators. What are people supposed to do at their homes? When they take away backup generators that are gas-powered, what are you supposed to power them with, a battery? Ridiculous.

One of the most critical sources of renewable energy along the entire Pacific Northwest is hydroelectric generation. It accounts for about 12 percent of our State's total portfolio and is the cheapest form of renewable energy available.

It is about 50 percent the cost of nuclear, 40 percent the cost of fossil fuels, and 25 percent the cost of using natural gas. Yet, it faces numerous obstacles as well.

They want to remove the dams. They are calling it the largest ever dam removal project—they are so proud of, it seems—up on the Klamath Basin, up on the Klamath River.

Four dams: the J.C. Boyle, Copco No. 1 and No. 2, and Iron Gate are scheduled to be removed, if they have their way. That will take renewable, available 24/7, power to over 70,000 homes offline, and it will have to be replaced by miles and miles of solar panels or windmills chopping up birds someplace.

Why do they want to remove this? Because of political correctness. They hope that maybe it will help the river have slightly cooler water for salmon spawning, maybe 1 degree, but it won't really work that way because it is going to leave all sorts of silt and hurt the Klamath River.

So one thing after another. We have to find a reliable energy source.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.